Demand of racks for Chhattisgarh

†2071. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Chhattisgarh has demanded racks on 'B' priority for providing iodized 'Amrit' Salt regularly to the poor people;

(b) whether they had informed of less availability of salt to the tribal areas because of inadequate number of racks; and

(c) the details of action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes Sir.

(c) There has been heavy demand for loading of imported foodgrains and fertilizers since October, 2006. Despite this, western Railway has loaded 1485 wagons of salt in January & February, 2007 for Chhattisgarh as compared 847 wagons in the same period of last year. Loading of edible salt is done as per priority and on turn on the basis of a programme recommended by the Salt Commissioner.

Rail link from New Jalpaigudi to Gangtok

2072. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal of Government to connect the rail link from NJP to Gangtok;

(b) if so, the details of survey conducted by Government, so far, in this regard and the details of outcome thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, a survey had been conducted in 2000-01 for Sivok-Singtam new line *via* Giellikhola. The cost of construction

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.